

HUAC Probe Nears End in Unusual Calm

**Empty Seats in Room;
Subcommittee Seems
Eager to End It All**

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The inquiry of a House Un-American Activities subcommittee into the antiwar movement on college campuses neared its end yesterday in an atmosphere of unaccustomed tranquility.

The turmoil that had marked the proceedings earlier in the week was gone. There were no demonstrations, no arrests, no shouting matches between the subcommittee and its critics. Even the public had lost much of its previous interest. There were empty seats in the Caucus Room of the Cannon Office Building.

Harried by legal challenges and by the boycott of lawyers for hostile witnesses, the subcommittee itself seemed anxious to end the affair.

Two of the principal antiwar organizers brought here under subpoena from campuses in California and Michigan—Anatole Ben Anton and

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Stanley Nadel—were excused by the subcommittee even though they were eager to talk.

Rep. Joe R. Pool (D-Texas), the beleaguered chairman of the committee panel, ruled that it would be unwise to call them because their lawyers were boycotting the session in protest against Wednesday's arrest of Arthur Kinoy, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union.

The subcommittee's reluctance to carry on was further emphasized by yesterday's schedule. Only one witness—an Oakland prosecutor, Edwin Meese III—was heard during a brief morning session that was adjourned before noon.

At 2:10, the subcommittee returned to announce another recess so the members could

answer a roll call on the House floor. It was nearly 3 o'clock when they returned and 35 minutes later they quit for the day.

That half-hour or so produced the day's only confrontation between the subcommittee and the youthful witnesses it had summoned.

Committee Counsel Arthur Nittle led off with a call for the appearance of Allen Krebs and Walter Teague III, both of New York. Neither appeared, which was no surprise to the subcommittee. They had announced the day before that in view of Kinoy's arrest in the subcommittee's chamber and the subsequent walk-out of seven other lawyers they would not take part in the inquiry.

Nittle then called Nadel, a quiet, black-haired student from the University of Michigan. Nadel's wife began to weep silently.

Nadel refused Nittle's request for his address, saying that his house had once been bombed and he wanted no repetition of that. He told the subcommittee he wanted to be represented by the lawyer of his choice, but could not because the lawyer had withdrawn from the case.

Rep. Richard H. Ichord (D-Mo.) quickly moved that Nadel be excused and Pool agreed. As Nadel walked toward his chair, he paused, turned around and asked whether he could change his mind.

"I want to testify," he said.

The subcommittee was uncertain how to respond. Ichord was willing for Nadel to be heard. But Rep. John M. Ashbrook (R-Ohio) disagreed and warned that Nadel would go home and say he had been compelled to appear without counsel.

In the end, Nadel was excused, but his subpoena was to remain in force until Nov. 15.

Anton, a chubby and irreverent student from the University of California, got the same treatment, but only after he wounded the subcommittee's dignity.

When asked his name, he replied with a smile:

"Since I'm not under oath, I could say James Bond."

Then, addressing Nittle, he said: "What's your name, Mr. Lackey?"

Ichord, who at times seemed to be more in charge than Pool, took the chairman's gavel and rapped the table.

"We do not have time," he

declared, "to listen to a bunch of clowns."

Anton, with a patronizing grin, replied: "Listen, Richie . . ."

"Be quiet," Pool shouted.

"Joe, Joe," said Anton. "I'd like to testify. I'm a busy man myself."

"You look like you're pretty busy," Pool replied.

With that, Anton was excused.

The day's final witness was 22-year-old Steven McRae of Stanford, who, unlike some of the other witnesses summoned by the subcommittee, is not a professing Marxist.

He agreed to testify without counsel (and without resort to the Fifth Amendment) because, he said in an opening statement, "I have a responsibility to stand up to this committee and to speak out against its transparent effort to intimidate resistance to the war."

McRae's only gesture of disrespect came at the beginning of his appearance when he was asked to raise his right arm to affirm that he would tell the truth.

His heel slammed into the floor and his right arm was extended in a perfect parody of a Nazi salute.

He testified that at Stanford he had helped collect money and 40 pints of blood for those wounded by U.S. military action in Vietnam. The donations were sent to the International Red Cross as a humanitarian gesture, McRae said, and as an expression of opposition to U.S. actions in Vietnam.

In the course of his brief testimony, McRae was warned he may have subjected himself to a congressional contempt citation. He refused to discuss the activities of anyone but himself on the ground that to do so "would incriminate me by reducing me to the level of an animal."

The hearing will resume at 9:30 this morning.